

Disability and Community Development: Urban and Rural Approaches

Panel Presentation

Panel Organizer (Contact information for panel members below):

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Abstract

This panel follows-up on the recent special issue of the journal, *Community Development*, on disability and community development. Disability advocates are working to develop local communities, regional programs, and state coalitions to promote accessible, inclusive communities. Accessibility expands our understanding of community quality of life and diversity - staying in the community, and participating in civic and community life. Tom Seekins will provide a brief conceptual overview linking disability and community development. Lee Shultz will describe the organization and operation of centers for independent living, and their role in advocating for accessible community development. Joan Guillory will discuss methods of coalition building that involve people with disabilities in the community development process. Nancy Arnold will review issues of the contribution of people with disabilities to the economic development of small and rural towns, and describe methods to promote such change. Alexandra Enders will present approaches to developing accessible community transportation options. The audience will be encouraged to challenge basic assumptions and to explore how these approaches might be more widely applied.

Program Summary

Disability rights advocates and disability service organizations are practicing a new "social model" of disability. This model focuses on changing community environments to promote participation in

community life by people with disabilities. This panel will explore new opportunities for partnerships between people with disabilities, disability advocates, and community development researchers and practitioners.

Audio-Visual Needs

Projection screen. Presenters will bring own equipment.

Additional Presenter Information

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